

1 BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
2 ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL
3

4 In the Matter of Application No. 2004-01:
5 WIND RIDGE POWER PARTNERS, LLC;
6 WILD HORSE WIND POWER PROJECT
7
8

EXHIBIT 30(KO-T)

9
10 **APPLICANT'S PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY**
11 **WITNESS # 11: KURT OLIVER**
12
13

14 Q Please state your name and business address.
15

16 A My name is Kurt Oliver and my business address is 19700 Janelia Farm Blvd, Ashburn, VA
17 20147.
18

19 Q What is your present occupation, profession; and what are your duties and responsibilities?
20

21 A I am employed by Comsearch. Comsearch provides consulting services to commercial and
22 governmental organizations. These organizations include some of the most prominent
23 telecommunication companies; Fox and ABC Broadcast, Sprint, Verizon and AT&T telephone,
24 and Cox, Comcast and General Media Cable. In the governmental area we work closely with
25 and provide services to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Federal Aviation

EXHIBIT 30 (KO-T) - 1
KURT OLIVER
PREFILED TESTIMONY

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1 Administration (FAA), and the United States Navy and Air Force. We assist those
2 organizations in analyzing impacts of projects, such as the Wild Horse Wind Power Project, on
3 communication system operations. I am Director of the Field Services Department of
4 Comsearch. My duties regarding this project were to evaluate potential impact to
5 telecommunication services with respect to the proposed wind energy facility. The
6 telecommunication services evaluated were microwave links (point-to-point stations), off-air
7 television services to the communities in the vicinity of the proposed wind energy facility and
8 wireless telephone services (cellular and PCS). I assisted in the preparation of the Application
9 for Site Certification for this Project.
10

11 Q Would you please identify what has been marked for identification as Exhibit 30-1 (KO-1).
12

13 A Exhibit 30-1 (KO-1) is a résumé of my educational background and employment experience.
14

15 Q Are you sponsoring any portions of the "Application for Site Certification" for the Wild Horse
16 Wind Power Project?
17

18 A Yes. I am sponsoring the following section for which I was primarily responsible for the
19 analysis and development:

20 Section 3.13.2.6 Public Services and Utilities/Recreation, Impacts of the Proposed Action,
21 Communications
22

23 Q What exhibits that are part of the Application that you are sponsoring?
24

25 A I am sponsoring the following exhibits to the Application.

Exhibit 24 A Microwave and Fresnel Zone Obstruction Analysis

Exhibit 24 B Off-Air TV Reception Analysis

Q Are you familiar with these section of the Application and exhibits?

A Yes

Q Did you prepare this section and exhibits, or, if not, did you direct and /or supervise their preparation, or were they prepared based on information provided by you?

A Yes.

Q Is the information in this section and these exhibits within your area of authority and /or expertise?

A Yes

Q Are the contents of this sections and exhibits of the Application either based upon your own knowledge, or upon evidence, such as studies and reports as reasonably prudent persons in your field and expertise are accustomed to rely in the conduct of their affairs?

A Yes.

Q To the best of your knowledge, are the contents of this section and exhibits of the Application true?

1
2 A Yes.

3
4 Q Do you incorporate the facts and content of this section and exhibits as part of your
5 testimony?

6
7 A Yes

8
9 Q Are you able to answer questions under cross-examination regarding this section and
10 exhibits?

11
12 A Yes

13
14 Q Do you sponsor the admission into evidence of this section and exhibits of the Application?

15
16 A Yes

17
18 Q Are there any modifications or corrections to be made to those portions of the Application that
19 you are sponsoring?

20
21 A No

22
23 Q Would you please summarize and briefly describe the studies you conducted regarding
24 telecommunications, your assessment of the impacts of the Project on
25 telecommunications, and any mitigation features that are being proposed.

1
2 A The microwave station obstruction study revealed a number of microwave links that
3 bisect the proposed Wild Horse Wind Power Project, however, on close examination of
4 these links with respect to the placement of the individual turbines, sufficient path
5 clearance is present to eliminate any potential obstruction due to the turbines operation.
6 Therefore, under the current layout as proposed for the Wild Horse Wind Power Project,
7 no individual turbine will obstruct any microwave link in the area.
8

9 The off-air television reception was field measured and analyzed in the area. All of the
10 more populated communities to the west of the proposed Wild Horse Wind Power Project
11 (Cle Elum, Ellensburg, Roslyn, and Kittitas) will be able to receive all of the off-air
12 television broadcast stations they current receive should the project be constructed as the
13 Wild Horse turbines are well east of the television broadcast towers serving these
14 communities. Areas to the northeast and east of the wind energy facility may have
15 degraded off-air television to some of the channels they now receive after the wind
16 energy facility is built. However, this sparsely populated area will still be able to receive
17 reception from at least three unobstructed off-air broadcast transmitters located to the
18 north of the proposed Wild Horse Wind Power Project. In addition, demographic studies
19 indicate that the areas to the north and east of the proposed wind energy facility are
20 remote areas with minimal residential population densities. Since these areas are very
21 sparsely populated and the off-air television reception is now poor, it is not expected that
22 there will be complaints of degraded television reception from residents of these areas.
23

24 Wireless telephone coverage, whether cellular or PCS, should be unaffected by the
25 presence of the wind energy facility. Wind turbines do not interfere with cellular

1 telephone reception. In the US, wind project operations personnel regularly use both cell
2 phones and walkie-talkies to communicate with each other within and around large wind
3 farms. There are no reported incidents of wind turbines interfering with cell phone
4 reception. Cellular systems are designed to operate effectively in metropolitan areas
5 with large buildings and obstructions. The wind turbines are less of an obstruction than
6 the structures commonly found in urban areas. Therefore, there will be no obstruction to
7 cell phone service or the ability of cell phone users to contact emergency service
8 providers in the area.

9
10 Radio communications such as AM and FM stations will also be unaffected by the
11 installation of the Wild Horse Wind Power Project. The frequency of operation for AM
12 stations is such that the signals will be unaffected by any individual turbines and/or the
13 combination of all of the turbines in the facility. For FM radio, the frequency of
14 operation is just above TV Channel 6 so the same signal propagation characteristics will
15 apply. However, FM radio signal reception is much less subject to harmful degradation
16 due to obstructions. Therefore, it is not expected that any negative effect will be present
17 in the FM radio broadcast band due to the implementation of the Wild Horse Wind Power
18 Project.